

MEMORANDUM FOR: O/SA/DO/O

FROM: [ Associate General Counsel ]

SUBJECT: The Continuing Saga in the Investigation of Ex-Nazis  
of the United States

1. Following our meeting with Mendelsohn and the guidance we received from him concerning "who is in charge" in the Department of Justice, I received a call from a Jerry Siegel ((212) 791-0041), an attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office in New York. I missed Siegel's incoming call and upon returning it was told he was out but that Mr. Fier, the HEW investigator from Baltimore, would talk with me.

2. I told Fier that the Agency was confused about this entire matter. We were being approached by a number of different elements of the Government for information on the same individuals, specifically, the U.S. Attorney's Office in New York for information on Soobzokov, a committee of Congress and the General Accounting Office for information on a list of about a hundred individuals and, in some way, the Department of Justice is also involved. I advised him of our conversation with Mendelsohn and how we had been left with a clear impression that he (Mendelsohn) was the correct individual to deal with. Fier expressed some surprise at this and indicated that he would have Siegel call me back.

3. When Siegel called, I relayed the same information to him but added that Mendelsohn had expressed the belief that the Agency had been "had" in this regard and that in the interests of the two investigators out of the New York District Attorney's Office was perhaps nothing more than an attempt to find support for their defense in a lawsuit. Siegel reacted strongly to this and said that his office had done what we requested, that is, send an official request through the Department of Justice asking for information on Soobzokov. In fact, he had learned that the Department had referred the request to the Agency's FBI liaison officer, Mr. Vernon Weimer. He stated further that there was an active investigation of Soobzokov underway and a grand jury was in session.

4. I replied that if an official request from his office forwarded through the Department of Justice reaches us, we would, of course, respond to it. I also promised to call him back with the full name and telephone number of Mendelsohn which he did not know.